IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Serial No.:

Chen-Fa HUANG

10/632,640

Filed:

August 1, 2003

For:

SAFETY DEVICE FOR PNEUMATIC

STAPLERS

Confirmation No. 2759

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Group Art Unit: 3721

APR 1 5 2004

Examiner: Michelle Lopez

Docket No.:

030707.SU (15819/121)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY FACSIMILE AND IS ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON APRIL 5. 2004 (37 CFR 1.8a) VIA FACSIMILE NO. 703-872-9306

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Communication dated March 17, 2004, election of Figure 8 is hereby made, subject to traverse. Claim 1 is generic to Figures 1-9. Claim 4 is directed to Figures 8 and 9. Thus, claims 1 and 4 should be examined in this application.

Other than the existence of three embodiments, the Examiner has not indicated any reason for restriction. From a simple review of issued patents, claims directed to multiple embodiments are often included, and the mere existence of multiple embodiments is not a basis for restriction. In this regard, the Examiner has not indicated that the fields of search are different, that any extra effort would be required for searching or examination, or the like.

Thus, for patent office economics and efficiencies, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Chen-Fa Huang

Dated: April /5, 2004

Alan D. Kamrath (Reg. No. 28,227) NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.

International Centre

900 Second Avenue South

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 TEL: (612) 339-7461 FAX: (612) 349-6556